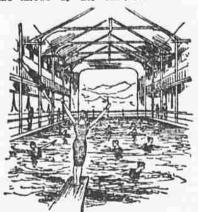
THEY DO 17. Platuresque Gilmpses of the Biggest School in the City-During and Difficult Feats Performed by the Pupils.

At 9 o'clock every morning nowadays New Yerk's fashionable swimming school is filled with fair women, who dive and plunge and splash and make merry to their hearts' con-tent. Relieved of the trammels of corsets and stays, they kick and jump and frolic as in the days when they were still in the nursery and played hide and seek in their nightgowns. The fashionable girl who has learned to swim under the instructions of the best teachers looks down upon the swimmers who confess that they have learned the art naturally or from any principles which in any way deviate from those laid down for her own guidance.

"None of the graduates of our school," says a graceful maiden, as she leans against a post above the swimming tank, "ever drowns. The principles which lie at the foundation of our instruction are deduced from scientific laws, and, once learned thoroughly, all the rest is simple. You can tell one of us among a thou-sand swimmers by our superior grace and beauty in the water."

Having given voice to her sentiments thus.

she proceeds to a practical fillustration of her views. The air in the room, like that outside. happens to be unusually warm, and a number of swimmers are in the water or on the platform. This particular girl moves slowly and with an indolent grace that makes her an object of eavy to half the women that watch her. She steps out on to the spring board, which juts out over the deepest part of the water for several feet. and throws up her finely rounded arms.



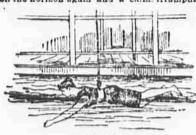
THE MAIN POOL,

Her hair is done up in a simple Grecian knot, and she is the ideal water nymph as she poises herself over the water preparatory to a dive. She looks about her languidly for a mement. gently draws in a full breath so that her bosom can be seen to expand under her thin, low-cut bathing waist, and then bounds into the air. the spring board giving her the desired impetus. She strikes the water fairly on her head and disappears into its depths to emerge a moment later half way down the tank, her golden hair showing at the surface like the reflection of the sun, whose rays are beating down upon the outside of the glass roof. The water rolls down her face, making her darkblue eyes blink, and her bathing suit clings even tighter than before, showing every line of her figure. She turns slowly in the water and reclines there as much at ease as though rest-ing on a divan in her own boudoir.

A mischievous little girl, not more than 15. and small for her age, has been paddling around in the water at a great rate. She is the

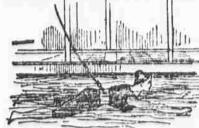


direct opposite in nature to the divinity who is calmly floating along only a short distance aglow with spirit and action. She cannot rest still a moment, and is continually doing things which shock the more demure girls and women. She is a pet of the blende, however, who enjoys calmly watching her pranks at a time when she is most lazy herself. The little girl dives, makes a most grotesque somersault. and pops up unexpectedly a few feet behind her friend. The next moment both her hands are at work sending streams of water scudding over the face of the floating beauty. The latter, though taken by surprise, only gasps a little once or twice, and allows berself to sink into the depths. The mischief maker watches her, laughing gleefully; but the beauty remains under the water a remarkable length of time, and she is just beginning to be anxious when her feet are caught in a flim grasp about the ankies and she is stood on her head, while the golden hair majestically rises on the horizon again and a calm triumphant



smile irradiates the beauty's countenance. The mischievous girl is half suffocated when she comes up, and soutters and chokes as she tries to gain her breath. She is still full of fun though, and manages to give the other another spray bath and escape to the side of the tank. whence she clambers to the platform.

The room in which these and many other amusing incidents occur daily is a large and siry one. Light pours in through little side windows high up on the walls and through the many-colored glass roof. A gallery for visitors extends around the room at a height of about twelve feet above the tank. The latter is



thirty-four feet wide by fifty-four long. The water is pure Croton, constantly changing, and varies in depth from four feet at the beginners'

varies in depth from four feet at the beginners' end to seven feet where the beauty first took her dive from the spring board.

At this time of the year there are many beginners there—young girls, young women, and old women. There are many bridge, too, whose husbands, having learned to swim at the same school, are anxious that they should acquire this most useful and beautiful accomplishment before they trust themselves to the dangers of the summer season at Long Branch or Newport. Probably the majority of the new pupils in the school now have come there so as to minimize the dangers of a sejourn at the seasied during the summer.

The greatest shock to the roung débutante, or the equally modest bride, who comes to the school to learn how to swim is received the moment she steps into the tank room. She has come there with a beautiful silk or fiannel bathing suit, nicely lined and embroidered, and with a skirt of moderate length. Upon en-

tering the room she stops back frightened, for there are a score or more of women of about her own age clad in the simplest garment imaginable. It is a single garment, such as



FLOATING CROSS-LEGGED.

the women athletes in the kircus sometimes wear, only it is sleeveless, very low in the neck and very short in the legs. It has no extra thickness where the circus rider's usually has a senarate evering but is of the thinnest material throughout, revealing glimpses that make the newcomers care.

material throughout, revealing glimpses that make the newcomers gaen.

To be sure, the men are rigidly excluded by the rule, and the instruction is all given by a woman, but the rule is sometimes violated, as the beginners con learn. The latter are very unwilling at lirst to abide by the decision of the instructors that their suits are altogether too clumps and heavy to be used, but they soon become accustomed to the laws of the school through the encouragement of examples set by the older pupils. Possibly the beginner don't want to wear one of the suits provided by the school, but prefers to have one of her



FLOATING UPRIGHT.

own. She can then use the school suit as a pattern for her drossmaker. The doctrine of the school so far as ciothing is concorned, is that it should be as little hindrance to free movement as possible, and no heavy materials are allowed to be used.

As soon as the beginner has got over her surprise at the scantiness of her costume, she comes slowly out of her dressing room on to the board platform that surrounds the tank, and tries to hide herself behind some body else while she watches the more proficient with eyes of wonder and envy. She is smazed to see one woman lying on her back as motionless as a statue, while her legs are crossed and her arms lie underher head. She listens in wonderment as she is told that this woman is a winner of a gold medal in the higher class competition for having floated thus for ten minutes at a time.

"Which wouldn't be anything wonderful in

petition for having floated thus for ten minutes at a time.

"Which wouldn't be anything wonderful in salt water," says her informant, "for all you need do to float there is to keep your lungs full of air and your body quiet. But in fresh water it is almost impossible."

Another woman is pointed out to her as the rival of this one. She is treading water and standing bolt upright. Her legs gradually cease their motion, and for about half a minute. She stands absolutely still, head and shoulders above the surface of the water.



NYMPES AT PLAY.

NIMPES AT PLAY.

which is seven feet deep where she is. There is a burst of appliance at this performance, and the teacher runs out into an outer office and presently returns with the professor, who wants to see this wonderful exhibition of skill.

The beginners are frightened nearly out of their wits at seeing a man among them, but after a few minutes they see that his presence is viewed with indifference by the older pupils and they resign themselves to the inevitable. The professor is a gray-haired German, with a thin, wenther-beaten face adorned with an evaggerated goates. He beams on the pupils, apparently utterly oblivious to their attractions and unmoved by any sentiment. The accomplished swimmer rejeats her legerdemain, and he coes into extacies of astonishment. Evidently he is an enthusiast. He goes away still uttering words of praise, and then the prodigy leaves the water beaming at the thought of having outdone her rival.

The teacher then begins with the new pupils. There are four kinds of apparatus for these. The first is simply an arm extending over the shallower water, with a rope and belts to hold up the body of the learner. Before this is brought into use she is instructed in the motions and the science of swimming. Confidence and presence of mind, she is told, are the two most important and necessary qualifications to

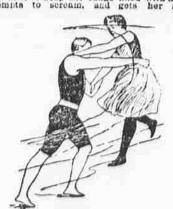


HOW TO HOLD HER.

the swimmer. It takes some of them a long time to be impressed with this simple instruction. The motions are then made by the teacher, and the pupils are told to imitate them. Then it is shown how even a really pretty and ordinarily graceful woman can be extremely awkward at times. Over and over again the motions are repeated before all are absolutely perfect. The motions with the arms are very simple and easily learned because the instruction here is not to use them as propellers but simply to steer with. The leg metions are more complex and are acquired with difficulty.

with difficulty.

The next lesson is with the apparatus first described. Each pupil is taken separately here. As soon as she touches the water she forgets all that she has been told, and begins to flounder and splash about: forgets to hold her head back, or to keep her lungs filled with air; attempts to scream, and gets her mouth



MEETING A WAVE.

the teacher says to her new pupils. "only you must ray strict attention to my instructions."

Closing time comes at 1 o'clock, and then the swimmers and beginners all leave the water and scamper to their dressing rooms.

At 6 o'clock the tank is silled with men, who are neither so graceful nor so interesting in their gambols. their cambols.

While the well girt has learned how to swim
in the tank of smoothly flowing water in the
swimming school, she has, of course, been told



RISING ON A WAVE.

something about awimming in the tossing, tumbling waves of the ocean, too; but it is one thing to learn the lesson mentally and another to acquire the knowledge structically. Outside the surf she may be all right, but in the breakers experience is required.

Mr. Duffield Osborne describes in Scribner's Monthly for July the science of swimming, or rather bathing, in the surf, and shows how easy it is for the ordinary awimmer to lose his usual coolness in the first bewildering experiences of undertow and heavy waves.

In the first place it is wise to stand in the water about waist deep. When a big wave comes the bather must be indeed expert to take it just right. The man who takes his or somebody else's sister out to swim in the surf is risking a good deal, and had better practise a little by himself first; but, if he is bound to take the chances, let him keep the following instructions well in mind, and if he can only follow them he will he all right:

He must not make the attempt with the water more than breast deep where the sea combs, or when the undertow is very strong, or when the waves seem to be unusually perverse in their action. He must not make his girl overconfident with promises that her hair won't he wet, for there may be a reaction. He must insist upon her implicit obedience, and can magnify the dangers of her failure to render it as much as he pleases.

The proper first position is illustrated herewith. The mar, stands with his left and his girl with her right side to the ocean. The man's feet should be firmly planted in the



sand, the left foot about twelve inches advanced, and the body and shoulders thrown forward. One arm supports her body to some extent grasping her firmly while he holds her left hand with his left hand. When a big wave comes he commands her to jump, and, as her feet clear the bottom, he swings her around with all his force, throwing her backward into the breaker. A great dear will depend upon his own proper balancing as to the success of this manneutre. The body of the wave will pass directly over the man, as shown in another lilustration, and will come pretty near ducking the girl completely, too.

If the wave should be exceptionally heavy it will be necessary for both to push forward boldly, bend head and shoulders forward, and brace firmly. Then the man must take the benefit of the undertow and swing his girl horizontally under the wave. Of course he keeps a firm grip on her all the time, and when the wave is past brings her back to first position. This is great sport, but requires both a strong and bold man and a courageous girl. If she can swim she will, of course, find it much easier to obey his commands, and he will be relieved of much work and anxiety.

RESCUED FROM SLAVE SHIPS. Congo and Angola Blacks Who Live Far

North of Their Old Homes, Scattered along the coast of West Africa in

Sierra Leone and Liberia are a number of settlements known as Angola town and Congo town. The ancestors of the people who live in these little hamlets were born hundreds of miles south of the places where their children are found to-day. They were natives of Angola and the Congo region. Many of them beong to the great Bantee family and they know very different languages from those of the negro tribes among whom they now live. These handfuls of Southern African people

scattered among the inhabitants of Liberia and Sierra Leone are more fortunate than many housands of their friends who toiled away

Scattered among the inhabitants of Liberia and Sierra Leone are more fortunate than many thousands of their friends who toiled away their lives as sinces on the piantations of the West Indies and Brazil. For those settlements were made by rescued slaves, who were taken by the cruisers of the civilized nations from the holds of slave vessels. They were bound for the West Indies or Brazil, for very few of the Congo or Angola blacks were brought to this country. Probably ninety-nine in a hundred of the black residents of this country came originally from the west coast, between Senegambia and Cameroons, while Brazil received most of her hundreds of thousands of slaves from Congoland and Angola.

So these more fortunate captives, who were rescued before they had been taken far from their native land, were settled far north of the Congo at points where they could be protected against slavers. There they have lived ever since, and not a few of the children born in their new homes still talk the languages of the southern tribes. Many of them have been Christianized, are tolerably industrious, and their lot has been quits fortunate, considering the terrible fate they so narrowly escaped.

Awhile ago Mr. H. Chatelain visited the Angola settlement at Sierra Leone. He says in the African News that the style of the houses, the methods of the field cultivation, and the features of the people carried him at once back to Angola, where he had long resided. In one house he found an old man, to whom he spoke in Kimbunder, one of the languages of Angola. The old man was surprised and overloyed, and opening his shutters called out to his neighbors to come and see the man who had been in Angola and spoke Kimbunder. They crowded around and were greatly surprised to see a white man who could talk with them in a language they had not heard from others since they were shipped from Loanda as slaves.

Chatelain found that they had anticiples, and have sonoused the laint he missionaries taught them. Some of these people wished to see heli

full of water, and is finally drawn upgreatly disgusted and worn out. But a tew words from the tencher quiet her, and the second experiment is more successful. After the work on this apparatus is finished. In the mean time more advanced pupils are being tangent by the aid of the other apparatus to get along with less support and to do other things than merely to make the properties and well are closed up why was persuaded by the opinion may the first time, the supporting arm beling mushed along on rollers to keep page with her. The sand violent motions.

Why do I get tired so easily? she asks.

"I'll never be able to learn to swim well if always become worn out so quickly."

The teacher laughs.

"Oh, you will be all right," she replies soothingly. After you get completely tired you will see the wisdem of obeying instructions more closely and then you will get along.

All kinds of swimmers are now in the tank, and some of the more daring climb up into the tank lelow. Many a husband or father would have been thrilled to see the exhibitions of skill and courage given by wives and daughters. The beginners look on with terrified asten is supported in their faces. The railing find the tank lelow. Many a husband or father would have been thrilled to see the exhibitions of skill and courage given by wives and daughters. The beginners look on with terrified asten is shown that height list the comparatively small lank.

"You will all be able to do that even better."

COSTUMES FOR THE STAGE. I have trained for a number of years, who don't require as much watching as new ones. "The stupidity of some of these contumers is very dense. One came to me one day with a INTERESTING TALK BY AN ARTIST WHO HAS DESIGNED 6,000.

The Results of Years of Study and Search -Historically Correct, but Exaggerated in Burlesques-Fairies and Ballet Girls. Recently it was announced that a new ballet had come to town which would surprise the theatregoers, and immediately thereafter came the report that the custom's officials had seized a large number of valuable costumes for nonpayment of duty. Next appeared in the newspapers some rapturous paragraphs about the wonderful beauty of these costumes both in design and material. The costumes had come from London. It was said, and were intended to be a revelation to the American public. It the course of the investigation of the legal difficulties in which these costumes became in-volved, the reporter came across Capt. Aifred Thompson, a former officer of the British army and an artist well known in theatrical circles

in this city.

To the theatregoer of to-day it has long been demonstrated that much of the success of any dramatic performance lies in not only what ap peals to the mind, but fully as much in the set-



ting, the scenery, the costumes, which appeal rather to the eye. A beautiful tableau will frequently carry out a play whose text is but commonplace. It was with peculiar interest, therefore, that the reporter learned that Capt. Thompson is looked upon as the originator of the present ideas of dramatic presentation, and that he claims to have started the era of spectacle and magnificent costumes. The use of tiusel and cheap fabrics. Which have only a false effect under the glamour of the stage lights, has passed, and to-day the finest and



THE BEGINNING OF A DESIGN.

most beautiful materials that manufacturers can produce are utilized in the costuming of our actors and actresses.

Capt. Thompson forsook the military profession many years ago to begin life anew as a devotes of art. While still a gay soldier of her Majesty he had demonstrated his ability by designing some costumes for an artist's ball at Munich, where he happened to be stationed, His success with his first venture was so great that he was called upon again and again, until he finally became convinced that he had sufficient ability to succeed in this artistic specialty Broadway while he was telling these things to the reporter the other day. Although it was





DAINTS BLUE AND WHITE CHINA

design that I had made, and pointing to the shadow behind, the feet of the figure, said to me that he didn't know what materials to use for that. Just imazine such an ass! My very first costumes were made for a little opera written by Gilbert more than twenty rears age, called 'Hobert the Devil,'

'It had quite a run, too, It was a burlesque, and was produced at the Galety Theatre. I took to dramatic work for a time after that, and for five years was the stock author of the Galety myself. During that time I produced a



big spectacular play called 'Columbus,' in which I made a big hit with a chorus of Spanish Admirals.'

Capt Thompson here brought down an illustration of one of these Admirals. The copy herewith gives only an idea of the design drawn by the Captain. Blue coloring, one of the chief elements, is missing. The gaudy yellow and blue cont, the yellow ostrich plume on the hat, the black neckerchief, the lace frill front to his shirt, as well as the rubieund tone of his nose, all add to the picturesqueness of the figure. The Admirals were a strong feature of the play and made their appearance when Columbus was presenting his ideas to the Spanish court for the purpose of ridiculing his allegations.



Miss armytags as queen of the Fairies.

"It makes all the difference in the world," said the Captain, "in making a costume whether the materials used are of just the right sort to harmonize well and set off each other. The most costly costume will have no effect unless this is the case. In designing my costumes I usually begin with a more sketch or outline, giving a suggestion of the design here and there and also of the colors. If the beginning is austoicous the end will be successful. After the sketch has been made satisfactorily then I begin to fill in carrying out the outlines and bringing out the color.

The Captain produced two sketches. One was a mere outline of a fluire of a monk with his cown and a suggestion of yellow in the borders. The other was a fluire of a nun, with a blue collar and a blue cross on the front and another on the back of her gown. This showed the second stage in his designing.

In making serious cestumes of historical significance, such as that of Henry VIII. Richelm, the Hask Prince, and so on, a great deal more work is involved than in the burlesque, although even some of these must be drawn with an idea of the cestumes breather the in which the scene is laid. My usual method in making historical costumes is to hunt up the portraits and caintings of that period, to readsuch authors as give ideas of MISS ARMYTAGE AS QUEEN OF THE PAIRIES.



You May Have Tried

A score of preparations called "sarsaparilla," without receiving any benefit; but do not be discouraged. Had you taken Ayer's Sarsaparilla in the first place, you would have been cured and saved time and money. It is not yet too late. Ayer's Sarsaparilla does not exhilarate for a while, and then leave the patient more prostrated than before; it produces a radical change in the system, such as no other preparation, claiming to be a blood medicine, can effect. Original-best-cheapest. Try Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

on my leg, which was raw from the knee to the ankle, attended with a stinging, burning pain sometimes almost beyond endurance. The best physicians, and several preparations of sarsaparilla, falled to give relief. Last spring I was advised to try Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and I am happy to say that it has effected a thorough and permanent curs. From the first my health began to improve, and now I consider myself a well man,"—Calvin Gardner, Overseer, Boott Corporation, Lowell, Mass.

South Albany, Vt.

"For years I suffered from scrofula and blood disease. The doctors' prescriptions and several socialed blood, purifiers being of no avail, I was advised by a friend to try Ayer's Sarsaparilla. I did so, and how feel like a new man, being fully restored to health. I believe that I owe my life to Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and would recommend it to all afflicted with scrofula or man,"—Calvin Gardner, Overseer, Boott Corporation, Lowell, Mass.

"During the past twenty-five years I have, at warious times, used Ayer's Sarsaparilla for puritying the blood, and I am fully convened that it is the most thorough and reliable blood purifier ever offered to the public."—Nicholas S. M. McNel, 240 Franklin Square, Philadelphia, Pa.

"I am glad to add my testiment in the value of Ayer's Sarsaparilla. I have, for four years past, been very much afflicted with salt-rheum on my leg, which was raw from the knee to the sake, a stended with a stinging, burning pain.

"For years I surfaced from wrofula and blood."

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ONE OF THE CATHER OWARD.

ONE OF THE CATHER



THE ACE OF SPADES.

ROMANTIC COURTSHIP.

A Bachelor on Rainy River Scients a Wife

by Photograph. OTTAWA, July 12,-There was quite a ripple of excitement on Saturday at But Portage over a remantic courtship and marriage of a Rainy Biver settler. The groom was Robert Gill, the